

# The Voter

League of Women Voters of Berkeley • Albany • Emeryville



FEBRUARY 2010

## IT'S A CELEBRATION!

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 The Citizens Redistricting Commission LeagueSpeak
- 3 Conversation On Fixing California
- 4 Instant Runoff Voting
- 5 What Is The "LWVBA"?  
Program Planning Meeting
- 6 Paper or Plastic?  
Bay Area League Day  
Jaimie Levin Will Speak at February Environmental Concerns
- 7 Nancy Skinner Was LWVBAE Guest Speaker in November
- 8 November and December Donations
- 9 Conversation On Fixing California  
(continued)  
Lenny Goldberg to Speak  
More Ways to Support Our League  
LWVBAE Office Hours  
Nominating Committee Seeks Volunteers  
New Members
- 10 Calendar

### WHEN:

Friday, February 19, 2010, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### WHAT:

A celebration of the League of Women Voters and our many accomplishments over the past 90 years, as well as our ongoing programs and advocacy.

### WHERE:

Pro Arts at the Oakland Art Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza in Oakland. The Gallery is located on the ground floor of the Plaza between Broadway and Clay at 14th Street, directly across from City Hall. The entrance is towards the center of the Plaza in the breezeway (Kahn's Alley).

Come Join the Celebration of the League's 90th Anniversary with Art, Wine and Fun!

The Oakland and the Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville Leagues are teaming up to celebrate the League of Women Voters' 90th anniversary in the new year. Not coincidentally, 2010 also marks the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. And if those weren't reasons enough to celebrate, 2010 is also the 190th anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony. Bring your friends and potential new League members and help us celebrate these momentous anniversaries with art, wine, camaraderie, general fun and, of course, birthday cake!

About the Gallery: Pro Arts was founded in 1974 as the Alameda County Neighborhood Arts Program. It provides access to contemporary art in Oakland and the Bay Area through exhibitions, open studios, collaborative programs, and more. In addition to serving as an advocate for regional artists, Pro Arts offers youth and community programs that reflect innovative artistic expression and the rich cross-section of cultures, ethnicity, age, and race in Oakland and the Bay Area. Last year Pro Arts exhibited 580 artists, drawing an annual audience of 65,000.

Jean Safr  
Director-at-Large

PLEASE BE SURE TO JOIN US ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 12 NOON TO 2 PM, FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING. OUR ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING MEETINGS ARE REQUIRED BY OUR BY-LAWS, SO IT'S IMPORTANT THAT AS MANY MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE ATTEND! THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S EDITH STONE ROOM, 1247 MARIN AVENUE (AT MASONIC), ALBANY. SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS.



## THE CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

As happens every ten years, 2010 is a Federal census year, during which the residents of the United States are counted. One of the purposes of the census is to determine how many people live in the United States, and where they live.

Once we know how many people live in California, and where, the population can be evenly divided into districts for electing State Senators, Assembly Members and the Board of Equalization, the state entity which collects California state sales and use tax, as well as fuel, alcohol, and tobacco taxes and fees that provide revenue for state government and essential funding for counties, cities and special districts.

Historically, redistricting has been carried out by the State Legislature. But in November 2008, voters in California passed Proposition 11, which changed the authority for establishing district boundaries from elected officials to a 14-member commission. The members of that commission are being chosen at this very moment.

Starting December 15, 2009 and until February 15, 2010, citizens may apply to serve on the commission by submitting an application to the State Auditor.

Basic requirements for serving on the commission are: (1) To have been a registered voter in California for at least the last five years with the same party (or non-party) affiliation; (2) To have voted in at least two of the last three statewide general elections; and (3) To have relevant analytical skills, be impartial and appreciate California's diversity.

Applicants who, in the past ten years, have been federal or state office holders, members of a political party's central committee, paid congressional, legislative or Board of Equalization staff, or who have held similar posts, are disqualified.

Of the 14 commissioners, 5 will be Democrats, 5 will be Republicans, and 4 will be registered with neither party. The bulk of the commissioners' work will take place from January to September 2011. Commissioners will be paid for days worked.

You can apply to be a commissioner, or keep informed about who is applying, at [WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov](http://WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov), or you may contact the Auditor's office at [VotersFirstAct@auditor.ca.gov](mailto:VotersFirstAct@auditor.ca.gov) or 866.356.5217.

Phoebe Watts  
VP - Voter Services

### THE VOTER

Published monthly except January, June & August by

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

1414 University Avenue, Suite D  
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Telephone: 510.843.8824

Facsimile: 510.843.8828

Email: [office@lwvbae.org](mailto:office@lwvbae.org)

Editor: Alice Kisch

Editorial Board: Jane Brandes, Bill Chapman,

Mim Hawley, Jean Safir, Sherry Smith

Proofreader: Evelyn Light

Technical Consultant: Bill Chapman

The *VOTER* is free to members, \$20/year for non-members. Current and past issues of the *VOTER* are posted on our website at [lwvbae.org](http://lwvbae.org).

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages active and informed participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

## LEAGUESPEAK

**ACTION:** Steps taken to influence public policy consistent with League positions.

**CONSENSUS:** Agreement reached after a sustained study and group discussion at Unit meetings of a substantial number of members, who are considered representative of the whole. It is not just a simple majority, nor necessarily unanimity.

**POSITION:** The League consensus on a public policy issue which provides the basis for action. Positions exist at each level of League. Individual members are not required to agree with all League positions or action.

**STAND:** Decision made by a League board at the appropriate level to take action based on the appropriate League position.

**STUDY:** Topics for research decided by delegates to national, state, and Bay Area conventions and by local Leagues at their Annual or a properly-noticed General meeting.

**UNIT MEETING:** (Units) It is at Unit meetings of the general membership that consensus is formed for the purpose of updating positions or forming new positions. Units are led by a discussion leader and allow for member participation and feedback of opinions and ideas.

**UPDATE:** A study of limited scope, to re-evaluate an existing position in light of new information, changed circumstances, and/or conflict with another position, with a view to considering a position change.

Jean Safir  
Director-at-Large

# CONVERSATION ON FIXING CALIFORNIA EXPLORES DIFFERENT WAYS OUT OF OUR PRESENT MESS

On January 5, 2010, more than 20 Leaguers and guests put our heads together to see if we could create a coherent set of priorities for helping California straighten out the way it runs itself. We were not seeking any consensus; rather, we were trying to get some perspective on the rapidly moving target of the State's finances and management. We first addressed five areas of major weakness in the way we govern ourselves and the wide variety of particular solutions circulating as ballot proposals:

1. The budget itself: We might close the expected \$21 billion deficit by implementing new revenue proposals, by changing Proposition 13, and by finding ways to cut government outlays, including eliminating negative taxes and/or current loopholes;
2. The process by which the legislature arrives at a budget: One might reduce the margin of passage from the present 2/3 vote to a simple majority (or 55% or 60%), creating two-year budgets;
3. How legislators are chosen and how long they serve: We could implement campaign finance reform; we could redistrict; we could revise current term limits;
4. The initiative process and ways to review initiatives to ensure fiscal sustainability without infringing on citizens' right to express legislative preferences;
5. The effectiveness of the State constitution as it stands, and whether it needs a complete overhaul or selective changes, and who should decide what to do.

At the 2009 State League convention, delegates chose Redistricting Implementation and Government Reform as issues for emphasis. League program continues for two years, so these will be our priorities until our next convention in the spring of 2011. These topics could generate educational and advocacy materials aplenty, but as we go to press, the State League has restricted its direction to local Leagues to encouraging members to apply for positions on the Redistricting Commission. Interested members are invited to log on to <http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov>, which explains the redistricting process and provides application forms. The deadline for applying is February 12.

At our meeting on January 5, the budget deficit was Topic #1 on everyone's agenda. Without urgent action, we will find ourselves with 11% of the total General Fund committed to debt service by the budget year 2011-12. The current piecemeal process of creating a budget and the isolated individual initiatives that have been passed leave legislators with very little discretion about spending State revenues.

Proposition 98 sequesters about 40% of the General Fund for K-12 schools. Many initiatives seek to support worthy causes but often do not define a means by which to fund their programs nor have these programs been studied for unintended consequences.

In the wide-ranging discussion that followed this overview, members agreed that as a state we must balance our priorities against what we are willing to pay in taxes; we must line up income against services and decide what we can pay for and what services we need.

As we looked at the interconnectedness of all the issues, the conversation turned to the big picture. We felt a need to consider what responsibility the State's businesses have to support State services and programs through taxes. Despite claims to the contrary, California's tax rate is not that high relative to other states.

The profile of which taxes bring in the most money has changed significantly in recent years, with businesses paying less and wage-earners paying more. While opponents will charge that higher taxes on businesses would drive them out of state, there is no real proof that this has happened after previous tax hikes and no examination to see if tax breaks to businesses actually create jobs or increase opportunity.

Members brought up areas of new revenue that don't explicitly raise new taxes but bring in more money, including:

- Closing existing loopholes which give very large businesses major tax breaks;
- Passing and implementing the single-payer health care system proposed in SB 810;
- Potentially extending sales taxes to items purchased on the Internet; and
- Changing one of the provisions of Proposition 13, now re-assessing businesses as well as residences only when the properties are sold. The revision would allow for a split-roll tax, retaining the reassessment of residential properties only at the time of sale, but assessing business properties on a regular, ongoing basis.

There was general agreement that the initiative process, originally passed as a reform measure, itself needs reform. In recent years it has been abused, with frivolous initiatives being submitted, creating unfunded or unsustainable mandates. Rather than representing citizen interests, these initiatives now frequently represent organized, well-financed special interests. It costs upwards of \$1 million just to get a proposal on the ballot.

There was less interest in holding a general constitutional convention. Members were leery of an

*(continued on p. 9)*

## INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING NOW IT'S RANKED CHOICE VOTING LET'S CALL IT A REALITY FOR BERKELEY!

In 2004, by an overwhelming majority of 80%, Berkeley voters passed Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). The League had a lot to do with that victory. Our endorsement and door-to-door campaigning convinced voters that this was, indeed, a very good idea. Avoiding the expense of runoff elections saves cities and candidates the expenses of two campaigns, creating substantially less burden on municipal budgets and allowing a wider spectrum of candidates to participate in a less costly election process.

It's taken over five years and a change of name – to Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) – but nothing else about it has changed. It is now entirely possible that not only Berkeley voters, but also Oaklanders and possibly San Leandroids, will use RCV for the first time in their municipal elections which will be held in November 2010.

Here's a quick tutorial on RCV as it will play out in Alameda County: Voters go to their ballots and select up to three choices for a municipal office – ranking them in order of their preferences among the candidates, indicating first choice, second choice and third choice.

There is no runoff election because the choices made by voters have already determined for whom the voters would have voted (in a later runoff election) if their first choice did not prevail. It's actually a very simple procedure to explain and the election machinery does the rest.

All the proper certification of the RCV voting systems, from the Federal government through the California Secretary of State, has now taken place and a voter-education plan has been assembled with the help of an implementation committee. The committee comprises representatives from the League (*Nancy Bickel, Jean Safir* and me, *Sherry Smith*, from LWVBAE, and others from Oakland and the Eden Area, which includes San Leandro), city clerks, city attorneys and others with expertise in how IRV/RCV elections are run. We have been researching successful education efforts from other jurisdictions and will hit the ground running in just a few months.

While Berkeley and Oakland are definitely planning to use RCV in their next municipal elections (initiatives were passed in both cities), as of this writing San Leandro is not yet completely on board, as their City Council has yet to make its final decision. With successful use of RCV by these Alameda County cities, it will be just a matter of time before other municipalities adopt RCV as well.

When the time comes, we will be calling on League members to participate in a "total League involvement" not only to help with pre-election voter education, but also to provide trained poll workers on election day, November 2, 2010 (mark your calendars!). The Registrar's goal is to provide one trained election worker at each polling place in Berkeley, Oakland, and (it is hoped) San Leandro to assist voters who may be having any trouble understanding what they need do to cast their ballot in this initial use of RCV.

As details unfold we will share them with you and launch a full-scale recruitment effort to complete the loop that started with our campaign back in 2004 to adopt this forward-looking election process. It has been a while in coming, but this is a very welcome day.

*Sherry Smith*  
Vice President for Action

### LWVBAE 2009-2010 OFF-BOARD PORTFOLIOS

ALBANY ACTION CO-CHAIRS	JEAN SAFIR ALAN MARIS
CIVICS EDUCATION CHAIR	JINKY GARDNER
CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION CHAIR	REGINA BEATUS
COMMUNITY LUNCHEON CO-CHAIRS	SUZANNE CHUN SHERRY SMITH
DATABASE COORDINATOR	JANE COULTER
DONATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	LOUETTA ERLIN
DUES COORDINATOR	MINA JENNER
ELECTION SERVICES CO-CHAIR	LOIS BRUBECK
CANDIDATE FORUMS (B-TV)	JILL MARTINUCCI
PROS & CONS	LESSLY WIKLE FIELD
SMART VOTER	SHERRY SMITH
VOTER AFFIDAVIT COORDINATOR	PHOEBE WATTS
HOUSING	ELOISE BODINE
JUVENILE JUSTICE CO-CHAIRS	LOIS BRUBECK PAT KUHI
LWV BAY AREA LIAISON	JEAN SAFIR
LWV ALAMEDA COUNTY LIAISONS	NANCY BICKEL SHERRY SMITH
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	JINKY GARDNER
OFFICE MANAGER/VOLUNTEER TRAINING	CHERYL NICHOLS
OFFICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	JANE BARRETT
WEB MANAGER/COMPUTER CONSULTANT	BILL CHAPMAN
WOMEN'S ISSUES	CHARLOTTE LICHTERMAN

## WHAT IS THE "LWVBA"?

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area is a network of the twenty Leagues in the nine Bay Area counties. This network is known as an "Inter-League Organization" (ILO), the official title given to such a group of Leagues organized to address regional problems or issues and to facilitate communication among leagues serving such an area.

The LWVBA has adopted regional action positions on:

- Regional governance and planning,
- Physical environment and natural resources,
- Hazardous materials management,
- Housing, as social policy, and
- Transportation - surface and air.

The LWVBA monitors major regional agencies and advocates on the basis of its positions. It presents community education programs on regional issues, including an annual Bay Area League Day – this year focused on climate change.

The LWVBA publishes the *Bay Area Monitor*, a review of issues and programs covered by the action positions listed above. The *Monitor* is funded by regional agencies and tax-deductible donations and is distributed to local, regional and State officials, and to interested residents. The *Bay Area Monitor* is also available via the internet at [www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org).

Each local League appoints an LWVBA representative who serves as liaison to the Bay Area League and attends the bi-monthly meetings of the Inter-League Network Committee (IN), to share information on area-wide issues and activities and receive information on LWVBA and LWVC activities.

The LWVBA *VOTER* is sent electronically each month to the presidents and editors of each local League, as well as to their representative on the Inter-League Network (IN) Committee.

The purposes of the IN Committee are:

- To facilitate communication among local Leagues;
- To recommend to the LWVBA actions to implement regional positions; and
- To provide local Leagues opportunities to participate in regional activities and decision-making.

Any League member may attend IN Committee meetings and may be added to the mailing list to receive agendas.

Guidelines for local Leagues to take action on regional issues are available in the LWVC publication: *How to . . . Take Action: Guidelines for Local Leagues*.

For more information or for clarification of anything above, please contact me through the LWVBAE office: 510.843.8824.

Jean Safir, LWVBA Liaison and LWVBAE Director-at-Large

## HELP PLAN NEXT YEAR'S LEAGUE PROGRAM OF STUDY AND/OR ADVOCACY AT BOTH NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009

12 NOON - 2 PM

ALBANY LIBRARY'S EDITH STONE ROOM  
1247 MARIN AVE (AT MASONIC), ALBANY

Local Leagues around the country are lobbying each other in support of their favorite public policy issues for the national League Convention to adopt in Atlanta in June 2010. LWVUS is now using existing positions to advocate on Health Care and Climate Change. Other issues of concern to Leaguers nationwide include a study of the appropriate role of the federal government in education. Since the passage of No Child Left Behind, the federal agenda in educational policy and funding goes far beyond the traditional support for school lunches, disabled students, civil rights enforcement, vocational education and college loans.

Huge state budget deficits, the Stimulus Package and the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind) mean that education will be on the front burner for the foreseeable future. Currently, LWVUS has no explicit positions on education. Information on a proposed national study will soon be available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

What policies do we (LWVBAE) want LWVUS to emphasize, act diligently on, or study during the next two years? Our Board must hear our members' views and decide which we favor before National's deadline this month.

On the local level, which of our many Support Positions should we emphasize next year? (A list of LWVBAE Support Positions is available at our office and on our website [lwvbae.org](http://lwvbae.org). Hard copies will also be available on February 2.) Do we want to retain all our current Support Positions? Should we adopt a new study at our Annual Meeting in May? We have not embarked on a new local study for several years. At the last Annual Meeting we voted to begin no new local study but to emphasize education and action, to wit: Climate Change, Health Care, Civics Education and Ranked Choice Voting. Hence, we have been scheduling a Conversation At The League on each of these topics.

Come on February 2 to participate in a lively discussion and share your views on which issues most need our energies in 2010/2011! You may bring your own lunch, but water is the only beverage allowed by the Albany Library.

Ginette Polak, Chair  
Conversations At The League

# PAPER OR PLASTIC?

The City of Berkeley is proposing an ordinance to reduce the single use of plastic and paper shopping bags by encouraging shoppers to use reusable bags. The ordinance would prohibit the use of plastic checkout bags and charge a fee for paper checkout bags. This will reduce the number of plastic bags manufactured, released to the natural environment or disposed of in landfill.

This ordinance applies to bags provided at the checkout counter. It does not apply to plastic or paper bags used within the store to contain produce, bulk or meat products.

The ordinance would:

1. Prohibit retail stores from providing plastic checkout bags, except for take-out food;
2. Require retail stores to charge a fee (possibly 25 cents) on paper checkout bags;
3. Require paper checkout bags to have a minimum post-consumer recycled content; and
4. Exempt purchases made with government subsidies, such as food stamps or WIC, from the fee on paper bags.

California State law currently prohibits local jurisdictions from imposing a fee for plastic bags, but does not prohibit a ban or a fee on paper. State law also requires supermarkets to accept bags for recycling, but estimates are that only 4% of the 19 billion plastic checkout bags freely distributed in California annually are actually returned.

The project would be implemented in two phases: The first phase would be effective six months from the date of adoption by the City Council and apply to supermarkets and large pharmacies. The second phase would be effective 12 months from the date of adoption and apply to all retail stores.

Plastic bag litter is costly for the City to manage in clean-up efforts and storm drain maintenance. The City also needs to reach its goals to decrease waste going into landfill. An additional big concern is the danger plastic bags present to marine life and birds.

The LWVBAE Climate Change Team has discussed the issue of the ban on plastic bags. Concerns were raised about the increased use of paper bags that may result from this ordinance. Are we trading trees for petroleum used to make plastic? Other concerns included the effect such an ordinance would have on merchants and whether plastic bags were being recycled and reused. Our Committee decided we would take the issue to the League Action Committee for possible action.

The Public Works Solid Waste Management Department has been working on this ordinance, which will be a City of Berkeley Council Agenda action item on February 23, 2010. Further information on the proposed bag reduction ordinance can be found at <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=44530>.

*Regina Beatus, Chair  
Climate Change Team*

\* \* \* \* \*

**DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND  
THE BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 9AM TO 2PM**

**ADDRESSING CLIMATE  
CHANGE**

**REGISTRATION FORM IS ON PAGE 4 OF  
YOUR MID-WINTER 2009-2010  
VOTER**

\* \* \* \* \*

## JAIMIE LEVIN WILL SPEAK AT FEBRUARY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS MEETING

Director of Alternative Fuels and Marketing at Alameda County (AC) Transit, Jaimie Levin, will be the guest speaker at Environmental Concerns' February 8 meeting. The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District is the third-largest public bus system in California, serving 13 cities and adjacent unincorporated areas in Alameda and Contra Costa counties over a 360-square-mile region.

A leader in alternative fuel technology, AC transit was named "National Clean Bus Leader" by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute of Washington, D.C. for its advanced environmental technology initiatives. AC Transit has also been recognized by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for its pioneering work in the development of zero-emission technology and its leadership role in advancing the cause of environmentally sound programs for the public transport industry.

Come hear about the latest news and technologies on Monday, February 8, 7:30 pm, at the home of *Wendy Markel*, 2811 Claremont Boulevard (NOT Avenue). For further information, contact *Gail Schickele* at 415.922.6627.

*Gail Schickele, Co-Chair  
Environmental Concerns*

## NANCY SKINNER GUEST SPEAKER AT NOVEMBER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

State Assembly Member Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) was the guest speaker at Environmental Concerns' November 9 meeting. The 14<sup>th</sup> District first-year legislator is Chair of the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee, which oversees water and air quality, recycling, waste management, energy issues including efficiency, power plant siting, energy development, oil spills, wild and scenic rivers, forestry, open space conservation and oversight of California's Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32).

A nationally renowned leader in the fight against global warming, Skinner founded ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, an organization dedicated to helping local governments around the world become environmental leaders. ICLEI USA's mission is to build, serve and drive a movement of local governments to advance deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and achieve tangible improvements in local sustainability. As Executive Director of ICLEI's U.S. office, Skinner launched the Cities for Climate Protection Program, the national movement of mayors and cities working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that now involves over 500 cities and counties.

"The science has never been ambiguous," she said of climate change. "I'm very happy that we're making progress on the national level but it's not enough."

Skinner noted that six major greenhouse gases were identified at Kyoto but that we focus on CO2 (the most abundant but not the most toxic). Needed, she said, is a better understanding of the science and of greenhouse gas (GHG) sources, which vary in different cities and regions. The national government protocol looks at the source, she said, but local governments tend to look at the end use, such as how much garbage in a landfill contributes to methane.

In Berkeley the majority of GHG is in natural gas and in your vehicle, she said, but Berkeley doesn't use as much electricity and has no real use for air conditioning. "In Berkeley we have a strong appreciation for energy efficiency," she said. "The best way is to not use as much."

Skinner noted that California has led the way in appliance standards, and with Title 24 building standards but that there are a lot of

pre-Title 24 buildings that need to be retrofitted. AB 758 (Energy Efficiency: Equity, Jobs and Green Buildings) requires the California Energy Commission to develop and implement a comprehensive program to achieve greater energy savings in existing residential and commercial buildings.

The program may include energy audits, energy efficiency improvements, financing options, and green workforce training. AB 560 (Renewable Energy Net Metering) addresses the current statutory cap on net metering for customers who currently are able to receive credit for energy produced by their solar or wind system, and offset energy usage on the electricity bills. Skinner also is an advocate for the "cool roof," or white roof, which reflects rather than absorbs heat, resulting in less smog and less need for air conditioning.

"How do we most effectively address these (GHG) emissions?" she asked, noting that in the last legislative session competition between the environment and the economy was suggested. "This is very important for the League of Women Voters and others," she emphasized. "We really have to get out there," to address the issues, such as what sectors are growing – service, construction, agriculture – all of which are connected to GHG reductions.

"They will be benefited by the right policy signals," she said.

Skinner also discussed the new 2009 water reform legislation package that addresses the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta, which supplies water to two-thirds of Californians.

A former Berkeley City Council member, Skinner is responsible for many of Berkeley's groundbreaking environmental policies, including initiating economic development strategy and waterfront protection policies. Her introduction of Berkeley's 1988 ban on Styrofoam was the nation's first. She also served on the Board of the East Bay Regional Parks District, working to protect open space, add acres of additional parks, and expand opportunities for youth and schools.

Assembly Member Skinner is also a member of the Utilities and Commerce, Public Safety, Local Government, and Appropriations committees.

*Gail Schickele, Co-Chair  
Environmental Concerns*

## NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER DONATIONS

### TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

*Diane Akers*  
*Jean Allen*  
*Robert Arnold*  
*William and Eleanor Bade*  
*Katherine Biess*  
*Judith Bloom*  
*Linda Burden*  
*Karen Carlson-Olson*  
     in memory of *Jody Bush*  
*George and Ann Crowe*  
*Elisabeth De Vogelaere*  
*Lillian Edwards*  
*Laura Enriques*  
     in honor of *Elsa Tranter*  
*Doris Fine*  
*Stephanie Friedman*  
*Joan and Roger Glassey*  
*Elaine Grossberg*  
*Bruce Harris and Marilyn Reynold*  
*Mim Hawley*  
*Anne Henderson*  
*Ora Huth*  
*Joyce Jackson*  
*Steve Jepsen and Carol Stone*  
*Yvonne Koshland*  
*Pat Kuhi*  
*Helene Lecar*  
*William Lidicker*  
*Evelyn Light*  
*Babette and Herbert Maccoby*  
*Julie Nachtwey*  
*Haruko Nagaishi*  
*Anita Navon*  
*Cheryl Nichols*  
*Allie Norton*  
*Juanita Peterson*  
*Ginette Polak*  
*Barbara Renton*  
*Sarah A. Robinson*  
*Ursula Rolfe*  
*Weldon and Jeanie Rucker*  
*Jean Safir*  
*Elizabeth Schaaf*  
*Patricia Shanks*  
*Grace Smith*  
*Sherry Smith*  
*Bobbie Spike*  
*Ruthann Taylor*

*Frances Tobriner*  
*Elsa Tranter*  
*Lassie and Lloyd Ulman*  
*Li-hsia Wang*  
*Andrea Washburn*  
*Phoebe Watts*

### TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

*Diane Akers*  
*Jean Allen*  
*Robert Arnold*  
*Barbara Beatty*  
*Gilbert Bendix*  
*Judith Bloom*  
*David and Eva Bradford*  
*Katherine Buss*  
*Suzanne Chun*  
*Suzanne Conrad*  
*Elisabeth De Vogelaere*  
*Violet Feinauer*  
*Stephanie Friedman*  
*Phyllis Gaines*  
*Linda Gerson*  
*Roger Glassey and Joan Glassey*  
*Anne Good*  
*Leo Goodman*  
*Elaine Grossberg*  
*Ann-Marie Hogan*  
*Kristina Holland*  
*Pat Kuhi*  
*Jane Ann Lamph*  
*Elizabeth Lichtenberg*  
*Evelyn Light*  
*Sarah Miyazaki*  
*Kris Muller*  
*Julie Nachtwey*  
*Haruko Nagaishi*  
*Juanita Peterson*  
*Ursula Rolfe*  
*Suzanne Rowley*  
*Patricia Shanks*  
*Marion Shapiro*  
*Sherry Smith*  
*Ellen Matthews Taniel*  
*Mary Wainwright*  
*Phoebe Watts*  
*Otis and Teresa Wong*

Many thanks for remembering your League.  
*Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary*

### CONVERSATION ON FIXING CALIFORNIA

(continued from p. 3)

open convention, for fear of having it captured by one segment of the political spectrum. Members questioned how any process could determine that delegates would be selected to fairly represent the diversity of California's electorate.

We all agreed, in closing, that fulfilling our Voter Service mandate this year would be particularly demanding. We will need to explain many technically complex issues so that voters understand the implications of their choices. We will also need further discussion on all these issues as we get closer to the Primary on June 8, and again before the General Election on November 2.

*Helene Lecar*  
Education Director

**LENNY GOLDBERG**, a major proponent of the split-roll tax, will be speaking on the state budget: **Where Does The Money Come From And Where Does It Go?** at the local chapter dinner meeting of the **National Women's Political Caucus** on **Monday, February 1**, 6-7 pm at the Buttercup Grill, 229 Broadway (at 3rd Street) in Oakland. For information contact Ellen Augustine (ellenaugustine@earthlink.net, 510.428.1832) or Miriam Rokeach (rokeach@gmail.com, 510.658.3805).

### MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR LEAGUE!

League products featuring the same Suffragist that is on the cover of *The Voter* are for sale and available at the LWVBAE office. These items include boxes of 8 ivory-colored note cards with envelopes for a \$10 donation, and heavy canvas tote bags, with an inner pocket, for a \$15 donation. (Replace your old one!) Check out these items on the LWVBAE website.

*Eloise Bodine*  
Housing Chair

### LWVBAE OFFICE HOURS

*Cheryl Nichols*, LWVBAE Office Manager, is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, and volunteers may be staffing the office at other times. But if no one is there to take your call, it is important that you leave a telephone message or use email to let us know the reason for your call. We will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible.

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

#### BOARD 2009-2010

Recording Secretary . . . . .	ANGHARAD JONES
Treasurer . . . . .	BILL CHAPMAN
Vice President-Action . . . . .	SHERRY SMITH
Vice President-Administration . . . . .	DIANE AKERS
Vice President-Election Services . . . . .	PHOEBE WATTS
Vice President-Membership . . . . .	JANE COULTER
VOTER Editor . . . . .	ALICE KISCH
Conversations At The League . . . . .	GINETTE POLAK
Education Director . . . . .	HELENE LECAR
Environmental Concerns . . . . .	CAROL STONE/ (CO-DIRECTORS, ONE VOTE) . . . . .
Healthcare Director . . . . .	URSULA ROLFE
Directors-at-Large . . . . .	MIM HAWLEY JEAN SAFIR

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Nominating Committee for LWVBAE will be meeting in the near future to brainstorm about the recruitment of officers and directors for our League in the coming year (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011).

We need a total of five League members for this committee, and newer members are especially welcome (no, you don't have to know everybody in the League!).

If you are interested in participating in this important committee or if you have any questions before you sign on, please contact *Sherry Smith* at 510.548.1769 or via email at js1589@berkeley.edu

The Nominating Committee will meet several times before April (the names of nominees will appear in the May issue of the Voter, which is the Call to Meeting for the League's annual meeting of the membership). Most of the Committee's work is done via phone and email.

Please come join us in this important work!  
*Sherry Smith*, Chair  
Nominating Committee

### NEW MEMBERS

Our Warmest Welcome  
To Our Newest Members:

*Barbara Banks    Kirsten Bender*  
*Roger Marquis*



League of Women Voters  
 Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville  
 1414 University Avenue, Suite D  
 Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Berkeley, CA  
 Permit No. 29

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**how to join**

fill in coupon below and mail with your check in the amount of \$75 (\$40 for each additional household member; \$40 for a student membership) to the order of LWVBAE,

1414 University Avenue, Suite D  
 Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. Eve. \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: LWVBAE, Bay Area, State and National. Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the LWVB Foundation are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Non-member subscriptions cost \$20/year.

**calendar**

**JANUARY**

27 WED.	3-5 PM	BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>D. AKERS, 527.1288</i>
30 SAT.	9 AM-2 PM	<b>BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY (SEE P. 6)</b>	LWVBA, 839.1608

**FEBRUARY**

1 MON.	6-7 PM	LENNY GOLDBERG SPEAKS ON THE STATE BUDGET, BUTTERCUP GRILL, 229 BROADWAY, OAKLAND (SEE P. 9)	ELLEN AUGUSTINE, 428.1832 MIRIAM ROKEACH, 658.3805
2 TUES.	12-2 PM	PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING, EDITH STONE ROOM, ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1247 MARIN AVENUE, ALBANY (SEE PP. 1,5)	<i>G. POLAK, 841.4546</i>
5 FRI.	5:00 PM	<b>DEADLINE FOR MARCH VOTER</b>	<i>A. KISCH, 985.0651</i>
8 MON.	7:30-9 PM	ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, 2811 CLAREMONT BOULEVARD (NOT AVENUE) (SEE P. 6)	<i>G. SCHICKELE, 415.922.5826</i>
11 THURS.	10:30 AM-12 NOON	MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>J. COULTER, 524.0525</i>
15 MON.		<b>PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY - LWVBAE OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
16 TUES.	3-5 PM	ACTION COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>S. SMITH, 548.1769</i>
17 WED.	1-3 PM	CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>R. BEATUS, 524.6904</i>
19 FRI.	6-9 PM	<b>LWV ANNIVERSARY PARTY</b> , PRO ARTS GALLERY, 150 FRANK OGAWA PLAZA, OAKLAND (SEE P. 1)	<i>J. SAFIR, 524-9088</i>
22 MON.	1:30-3:30 PM	HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>C. LYNCH, 527.2173</i>
24 WED.	3-5 PM	BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>D. AKERS, 527.1288</i>

**MARCH**

2 TUES.	12-2 PM	CONVERSATION ON CIVICS EDUCATION, EDITH STONE ROOM, ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1247 MARIN AVENUE, ALBANY	<i>G. POLAK, 841.4546</i>
5 FRI.	5:00 PM	<b>DEADLINE FOR APRIL VOTER</b>	<i>A. KISCH, 985.0651</i>
8 MON.	7:30-9 PM	ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, 2811 CLAREMONT BOULEVARD (NOT AVENUE)	<i>G. SCHICKELE, 415.922.5826</i>
11 THURS.	10:30 AM-12 NOON	MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>J. COULTER, 524.0525</i>
16 TUES.	3-5 PM	ACTION COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>S. SMITH, 548.1769</i>
17 WED.	1-3 PM	CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>R. BEATUS, 524.6904</i>
22 MON.	1:30-3:30 PM	HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>C. LYNCH, 527.2173</i>
24 WED.	3-5 PM	BOARD MEETING, LWVBAE OFFICE	<i>D. AKERS, 527.1288</i>

**BERKELEY ADDRESSES UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED**